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Commission on Narcotic Drugs
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Agenda item 5
Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem: follow-up to the high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in view of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

Colombia, Mexico, Morocco, Peru and Thailand: revised draft resolution

Promoting the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Reaffirming that the world drug problem must be addressed in accordance with the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[1] the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971[2] and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,[3] which constitute the framework of the international drug control system,

Bearing in mind the content of article 14 of the 1988 Convention regarding measures to prevent and eradicate illicit cultivation of narcotic plants and cooperation to increase the effectiveness of such measures,

Reaffirming that development-oriented drug policies and programmes should be undertaken in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[4] and, in particular, with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.
[2] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.
[3] Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.
[4] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

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States, the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, all human rights, fundamental freedoms, the inherent dignity of all individuals and the principles of equal rights and mutual respect among States, as well as the principle of common and shared responsibility and the Millennium Development Goals,[5] and taking into account the specific situations of communities, countries and regions,

Reaffirming also the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session[6] and the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development,[7]

Taking into account the commitments contained in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,[8] adopted by the Commission at the high-level segment of its fifty-second session and by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/182 of 18 December 2009,

Recalling that, in the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action,[9] ministers and government representatives reaffirmed the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development and the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development[10] and welcomed the efforts made by various States to significantly reduce the illicit cultivation of crops, including through development strategies such as alternative development, including preventive alternative development programmes,

Recalling also that, in the Joint Ministerial Statement, ministers and government representatives encouraged Member States to be guided by the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development when designing and implementing alternative development programmes, including preventive alternative development programmes, reiterated the need to strengthen international cooperation strategies consistent with domestic legal frameworks, recognized the need for strengthening sustainable crop control strategies and also recognized the significant role played by countries with accumulated experience in alternative development,[11] including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development,

Recalling with appreciation General Assembly resolution 68/196 of 18 December 2013, in which the Assembly adopted the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and encouraged Member States, international organizations, international financial institutions, entities and other

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[5] A/56/326, annex.

[6] General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex.

[7] General Assembly resolution S-20/4 E.

[8] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8* (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.

[9] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2014, Supplement No. 8* (E/2014/28), chap. I, sect. C.

[10] General Assembly resolution 68/196, annex.

[11] In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolutions 2006/33, 2007/12 and 2008/26, the concept of alternative development includes preventive alternative development in a manner that focuses on the sustainability and integrality of uplifting people's livelihoods.

relevant stakeholders to take into account the Guiding Principles when designing and implementing alternative development programmes,

Recalling its resolutions 52/6 of 20 March 2009, 53/6 of 12 March 2010, 54/4 of 25 March 2011, 55/4 of 16 March 2012 and 57/1 of 21 March 2014,

Taking note of the report on the thematic debate of the General Assembly on drugs and crime as a threat to development, held in New York on 26 June 2012,[12]

Reaffirming that the world drug problem remains a common and shared responsibility that requires effective and increased international cooperation and demands an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing and balanced approach to supply and demand reduction strategies,

Recognizing that many challenges relating to the world drug problem have persisted and that new ones have emerged in some parts of the world, and underscoring the need to take these new trends into account in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action,

Acknowledging that alternative development is an important, lawful, viable and sustainable alternative to the illicit cultivation of drug crops and an effective measure to counter the world drug problem and other drug-related crime challenges that should be included in national development policies, as appropriate, and that it is a choice in favour of societies that are free of drug abuse, that it is one of the key components of policies and programmes for reducing illicit drug production and that it is an integral part of efforts made by Governments to achieve sustainable development within their societies by addressing the socioeconomic factors and effects of the world drug problem,

Reaffirming that alternative development, which includes, as appropriate, preventive alternative development strategies and programmes, should be formulated and implemented by taking into account the vulnerability and specific needs of the communities and groups affected by the illicit cultivation of crops used for drug production and manufacture, within the broader framework of national policies,

Noting with concern that overall financial support for alternative development projects and programmes, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate, has only accounted for a minor share of official development assistance and has only reached a minor percentage of communities and households involved in illicit drug crop cultivation on a global level,

Recognizing the importance of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 as a milestone on the way to 2019, which has been set as the target date in the Political Declaration for the review of implementation, while recalling the role played by the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, held in 1998, in defining and furthering the concept of alternative development,

Welcoming the forthcoming special edition of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime *World Drug Report 2015*, on alternative development,

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[12] Available on the website of the President of the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session.

Recognizing the significant role played by countries with extensive expertise in alternative development, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate, in promoting best practices and lessons learned from such programmes, and inviting them to continue sharing those best practices and lessons learned with States affected by illicit crop cultivation, as well as with other interested Member States, including States emerging from conflict, with a view to using them, as appropriate, in accordance with the national specificities of each State,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to take the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development[10] into due consideration when designing, implementing and evaluating alternative development programmes and projects, including preventive alternative development programmes and projects, as appropriate, thereby contributing to the dissemination and implementation of the Guiding Principles;

2. *Calls upon* Member States and other donors to consider long-term support for alternative development programmes and projects, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes and projects, targeting the illicit cultivation of crops and addressing related factors, in order to contribute to the sustainability of social and economic development, to poverty eradication and to strengthening the rule of law, including through enhanced development-oriented approaches that implement measures for rural development, strengthen local governments and institutions, improve infrastructure and promote the participation of local communities, while also taking into account the special need for employment opportunities for women and girls;

3. *Encourages* Member States to maintain and strengthen international cooperation, coordination and stakeholder ownership to support sustainable alternative development programmes, including preventive alternative development programmes, where appropriate, as essential parts of successful crop control strategies, in order to increase the positive outcome of such programmes, especially in areas affected by or at risk of the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, taking into account the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development;

4. *Encourages* relevant international financial institutions, United Nations organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to increase their rural development support for regions and populations affected by the illicit cultivation of drug crops through long-term and flexible funding, and encourages affected States, to the extent possible, to remain strongly committed to financing alternative development programmes, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate;

5. *Encourages* Member States with extensive expertise in alternative development, including preventive alternative development, as appropriate, to continue sharing, upon request, best practices and to continue fostering and strengthening international cooperation on integral and sustainable alternative development, which in some cases includes preventive alternative development, including cross-continental and interregional cooperation and subregional and regional technical cooperation;

6. *Notes* that implementing the Guiding Principles will require a long-term commitment by Member States, dialogue and cooperation among relevant

stakeholders, ranging from local communities and authorities to policymakers at the national and regional levels, and close collaboration among the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, other international organizations, regional organizations, development agencies, donors and financial institutions, as well as civil society, in order to share information and best practices and increase efforts to promote sustainable alternative development, in accordance with the Guiding Principles;

7. *Welcomes* the proposal by the Government of Thailand to host an international seminar/workshop on the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development;

8. *Invites* Member States, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, international financial institutions, donors, regional and international organizations, civil society and other relevant stakeholders involved in alternative development, including preventive alternative development, to consider actively participating in the international seminar/workshop;

9. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Commission at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution.